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April 23, 2019

ACTION MEMO FOR DEBORAH L. BIRX, AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE; COORDINATOR OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES TO COMBAT HIV/AIDS AND U.S. SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH DIPLOMACY

SUBJECT: Ukraine Country Operational Plan 2019 Approval

Recommendations

Approve the Ukraine Country Operational Plan (COP) 2019 with a total budget of \$30,000,000 including all initiatives and applied pipeline, to achieve the targets and outcomes as listed in this memo and all appendices. Total budget is reflective of the following programming:

Ukraine	New Funding (all accounts)*	Pipeline**	Total Budget FY2020 Implementation
Total Budget	20,354,703	9,645,297	30,000,000
COP 19 Bilateral	20,354,703	9,645,297	30,000,000

* New Funding may refer to FY 2019 or other FY appropriations newly allocated for implementation in FY 2020 with COP 2019; accounts indicated in detailed tables.

** Pipeline refers to funding allocated in prior years and approved for implementation in FY 2020 with COP 2019

Approve a total FY 2020 outlay for COP 2019 implementation that does not exceed the total approved COP 2019 budget of \$30,000,000. **Any prior year funds that are not included within this COP 2019 budget and documented within this memo, its appendices and official PEPFAR data systems are not to be made available for execution and outlay during FY 2020 without additional written approval.** The new FY 2019 funding and prior year funds approved within this memo as a part of the total COP 2019 budget are allocated to achieve specific results, outcomes and impacts as approved. All requested Operational Plan Updates and shifting of funds – either between mechanisms and partners, or to add additional funding to mechanisms and partners for execution in FY 2020– must be submitted to and approved by S/GAC.

Approved funding will be made available to agency headquarters for allocation to country platform to implement COP 2019 programming and priorities as outlined below and in the appendix.

Ukraine must rapidly develop and deploy a holistic, whole-of-government, testing strategy targeted toward populations with the greatest unmet need, especially people who inject drugs (PWID). Ukraine must also fully achieve approved COP 2018 (FY 2019) treatment new (TX_NEW) targets in order to execute the COP 2019 strategy. Suboptimal COP 2018 performance jeopardizes COP 2019 funding and may result in updates to this approval and a decrease to the COP 2019 funding.

Background

This approval is based upon: 1) The discussions that occurred between the country team, agency headquarters, S/GAC, indigenous and international stakeholders and implementing partners in Johannesburg, South Africa during the March 18-22, 2019 in-person planning meetings; 2) the final COP 2019 submission, including all data submitted via official PEPFAR systems or within supplemental documents; and 3) Ukraine's virtual COP 2019 approval with Ambassador Birx on April 23, 2019.

Program Summary

Funding and targets for Ukraine's Country Operational Plan 2019 are approved to support PEPFAR Ukraine's vision to accelerate progress towards reaching epidemic control by 2020. Although significant gains have been made within the past year, there are equally significant challenges to achieving epidemic control, and Ukraine is currently not on pace to reach UNAIDS' 2020 or 2030 targets. As of the February 25, 2019 Spectrum estimates, only 72 percent of the 157,431 PLHIV in the 12 PEPFAR regions of Ukraine know their status, and only 71 percent of those identified are on ART. 93 percent of those on ART are virally suppressed.

The PEPFAR Ukraine strategy to be implemented in FY 2020 is based on a thorough review of programmatic data, discussions with civil society and community organizations, and implementing partners. For Ukraine's COP 2019, PEPFAR will refine and scale efforts to identify and link PLHIV, ensure those on treatment remain virally suppressed, expand prevention activities among key populations, and continue technical assistance in support of Ukraine's broader health reforms and to establish the new central procurement authority. COP 2019's success, and funding, is contingent upon the Government of Ukraine's

completion of near-term health sector and policy reforms, including the restructuring of HIV clinical services in accordance with a client-centered approach, and revisions to the national HIV testing algorithm to allow for confirmation, and treatment initiation, following two rapid tests. With these critical policy changes, COP 2019 addresses all thirteen PEPFAR minimum requirements.

Case-finding remains the biggest barrier preventing Ukraine from reaching epidemic control. PEPFAR Ukraine's analysis of recent ANC prevalence and IBBS data provide a roadmap to target case-finding approaches. In COP 2019, PEPFAR will expand the number of testing partners to ensure coverage in high-burden rayons (districts). This includes expansion of facility-based testing to geographic locations with HIV ANC prevalence greater than 1% and deployment of a national HIV risk-screening tool. PEPFAR will also provide facility-level TA to ensure 100% coverage of index testing for all newly-identified PLHIV. To address the large numbers of key populations (KP) with unknown status, PEPFAR will continue social network testing for people who inject drugs (PWID), expanding to more rural regions through the use of mobile outreach. In addition, COP 2019 will deploy new approaches to bring PWID to testing services, including multi-testing for HCV (hepatitis C virus), HBV (hepatitis B virus) and HIV. Programs to identify men-who-have-sex-with-men (MSM) will be expanded to additional urban centers and tailored to account for differences in sex-seeking behaviors exhibited by younger and older MSM. In FY 2020, PEPFAR will also continue to support testing in prison settings and expand community-based index testing of HIV positive prisoners. Finally, PEPFAR will also provide technical assistance to test soldiers returning from the non-government controlled regions, including deployment of a risk-screening tool.

In COP 2019 PEPFAR will continue to support the National Center for Public Health to improve treatment outcomes and ensure viral load suppression. Although Ukraine has made significant progress in the last two years, the rate of initiation of patients onto treatment is insufficient to reach epidemic control by 2020. COP 2019 treatment current targets move Ukraine towards 90-90-90 by continuing to scale current successful treatment programming and increasing programmatic efficiency. This includes technical assistance to more rapidly initiate clients onto optimized ART regimens, with a goal of transitioning the majority of patients to tenofovir/lamivudine/dolutegravir (TLD) in FY 2020. PEPFAR will also expand performance-based incentives to motivate health care workers to initiate and retain PLHIV on treatment, targeting 95% linkage and retention for all PLHIV. PEPFAR will also continue efforts to retain children living with HIV on treatment through youth support groups via OVC programming.

HIV/TB coinfection remains one of the highest causes of HIV-related mortality in Ukraine. TB preventative therapy (TPT) is recommended by the Ukrainian MOH and it is estimated that in 2017, close to 61% of newly diagnosed PLHIV started TPT, though data were not reliably reported. Ukraine also estimates that approximately 50% of the current treatment cohort initiated TPT. Therefore, PEPFAR activities will adapt the current HIV MIS (HIV management information system) system to reliably capture TPT completion and support analysis of HIV and TB surveillance data to determine the outcomes of PLHIV who received TPT.

Given high HIV prevalence among KP in Ukraine, PEPFAR will continue to support the Government of Ukraine with high-impact prevention interventions. This includes scale-up of PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) for MSM and transgender individuals (TG), with a specific emphasis on increasing the demand among providers and patients, and diversifying access to PrEP in different settings (including NGOs working with high risk populations and AIDS Centers). PEPFAR will also continue to expand U=U (or Undetectable=Untransmittable) messaging among all KP groups to raise awareness about how effective antiretroviral treatment medications are in preventing the sexual transmission of HIV. PEPFAR will also continue to support prevention activities among PWID, specifically supporting Ukraine to deliver methadone-assisted-therapy (MAT).

Finally, COP 2019 will provide above-site programs to support efforts to reform the Ukrainian health sector. This includes technical assistance to incorporate HIV clinical services as part of the national public health system, enabling primary care physicians to be reimbursed for HIV services, and to establish and launch the Central Procurement Agency (CPA), a parastatal organization that will transparently procure all essential medicines going forward. Above-site laboratory systems strengthening technical assistance to the National Reference Lab in COP 19 will focus on HIV rapid test continuous quality improvement and viral load scale-up. Construction of the National Reference Lab will be ongoing in COP 19, supporting broader laboratory infrastructure and contributing to global health security.

The plans outlined in COP 2019 meet the minimum program requirements. Immediate improvements in testing are needed in FY 2019 in accordance with a cohesive case finding, testing and treatment linkage strategy that is brought to scale. The team must assure that test and start implementation continues on schedule and that FY 2019 testing targets are reached. Robust HIV risk screening tools (including a comprehensive antenatal clinic screening tool targeting pregnant women and their sexual partners) are needed for immediate

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roll-out to support the identification of HIV positive individuals – with particular emphasis on men who screen for injection behavior. Testing implementation must be also accompanied by the systematic review of partner performance (at regional-, rayon-, and site-levels); partner performance below target will be subject to funding decreases beginning in FY 2019. It is expected that Ukraine will complete the scale-up of provider training in all PEPFAR supported regions as HIV testing and treatment services are fully integrated into primary health care facilities (coinciding with pending policy approvals to decrease the numbers and complexity of reporting forms, decrease the number of lab tests required for ART initiation and allow for the prescription of antiretroviral therapy in primary health care facilities. Lastly, TLD transition will be completed with the successful phase out of Nevirapine by October 2019.

Additional funding in the amount of \$7,329,881 will be notified for Ukraine but held at S/GAC in support of acceleration efforts. Based upon COP 2019 performance, these additional acceleration funds will be programmed with COP 2020 for FY 2021 implementation.

Funding Summary

All COP 2019 funding summarized in the chart below is approved at the agency and account levels as indicated. Funds are to be utilized to achieve the targets and outcomes and to fund implementing partners and Management and Operations costs (U.S. Government Costs of Doing Business) as documented in all PEPFAR systems and summarized in the appendix.

Ukraine	FY 2019 New			Total New Funds	Applied Pipeline*	Total COP 19 Bilateral Budget
	GHP-State	GHP-USAID	GAP			
DOD TOTAL	-	-	-	-	317,326	317,326
HHS TOTAL	8,935,416	-	484,584	9,420,000	5,532,736	14,952,736
HHS/CDC	6,885,416	-	484,584	7,370,000	5,532,736	12,902,736
HHS/HRSA	2,050,000	-	-	2,050,000	-	2,050,000
PEACE CORPS TOTAL	417,736	-	-	417,736	122,264	540,000
STATE TOTAL	350,000	-	-	350,000	2,074,768	2,424,768
State	350,000	-	-	350,000	432,771	782,771
State/EUR	-	-	-	-	1,641,997	1,641,997
USAID TOTAL	10,166,967	-	-	10,166,967	1,598,203	11,765,170
USAID, non-WCF	10,166,967	-	-	10,166,967	958,998	11,125,965
USAID, WCF	-	-	-	-	639,205	639,205
<i>of which, Surveillance and Public Health Response</i>	-	-	-	-	19,155	19,155
TOTAL	19,870,119	-	484,584	20,354,703	9,645,297	30,000,000
<i>of which, Surveillance and Public Health Response</i>	-	-	-	-	19,155	19,155

* Pipeline refers to funding allocated in prior years, approved for implementation in FY 2020

**The budget table above reflects all approved funding for COP 2019 for FY 2020 implementation only. Please note that during the COP 2019 planning process, of the total FY 2019 GHP-State funding approved for PEPFAR Ukraine, \$7,329,881 will be funded out of resources designated by S/GAC for Performance-based Acceleration Towards Epidemic Control in various countries. Specifically, these funds are targeted to surge assistance to help South Sudan achieve critical epidemic control targets through the end of FY 2021. The full amount is expected to be used during the FY 2021 implementation period and will be documented in the COP 20 approval memo.

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GHP-State Funds: Upon the clearance of a FY 2019 PEPFAR GHP-State Congressional Notification (CN), funds will be made available for transfer to agency HQs as indicated in the above chart. Funds are made available for outlay in FY 2020 at approved COP 2019 partner budget levels to achieve FY 2020 targets and outcomes as documented in official PEPFAR systems and summarized in the approval memo's appendix. Upon receipt from S/GAC, agency headquarters will move the funds to the country platform via each agency's internal process.

CDC GAP Funds: With the receipt of this signed memo, CDC is approved to use CDC GAP funds, as indicated in the above funding chart. Funds are to be made available for outlay in FY 2020 at approved COP 2019 partner budget levels to achieve FY 2020 targets and outcomes as documented in official PEPFAR systems and summarized in the approval memo's appendix. With this approval, CDC GAP funding may be made available to country teams per CDC internal processes and following agency requirements.

Applied Pipeline Funds: With the receipt of this signed memo, respective agencies are approved to use applied pipeline funds as indicated in the above funding chart. Funds are to be made available for outlay in FY 2020 at approved COP 2019 partner budget levels to achieve FY 2020 targets and outcomes as documented in official PEPFAR systems and summarized in the approval memo's appendix. Additional or remaining pipeline from previous year's activities that are not currently captured in the COP 2019 total budget level and documented within COP 2019 partner budgets are not to be executed or outplayed without written approval from the Global AIDS Coordinator.

FY 2020 Target Summary

FY 2019 funds are released and COP 2019 applied pipeline is approved to achieve the following results in FY 2020.

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Ukraine		SNU Prioritizations					Total *
		Attained	Scale-Up: Saturation	Scale-Up: Aggressive	Sustained	Centrally Supported	
HTS_INDEX	<15			-			-
	15+			47,500			47,500
	Total	-	-	47,500	-	-	47,500
HTS_TST	<15			-			-
	15+			448,673			458,673
	Total	-	-	448,673	-	-	458,673
HTS_TST_POS	<15			-			-
	15+			30,184			30,384
	Total	-	-	30,184	-	-	30,384
TX_NEW	<15			-			-
	15+			28,674			28,674
	Total	-	-	28,674	-	-	28,674
TX_CURR	<15			-			-
	15+			123,072			123,072
	Total	-	-	123,072	-	-	123,072
TX_PVLS	<15			-			-
	15+			120,952			120,952
	Total	-	-	120,952	-	-	120,952
CXCA_SCRN	Total (15+)			-			-
OVC_SERV	<18			413			413
	18+			187			187
	Total	-	-	600	-	-	600
OVC_HIVSTAT	Total (<18)			413			413
PMTCT_STAT	<15			-			-
	15+			-			-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
PMTCT_STAT_POS	<15			-			-
	15+			-			-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
PMTCT_ART	<15			-			-
	15+			-			-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
PMTCT_EID	Total			-			-
PP_PREV	<15			-			-
	15+			-			-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
KP_PREV	Total			105,773			105,773
KP_MAT	Total			4,121			4,121
VMMC_CIRC	<15			-			-
	15+			-			-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
HTS_SELF	Total			20,000			20,000
PrEP_NEW	Total			981			981
PrEP_CURR	Total			1,960			1,960
TB_STAT (N)	<15			-			-
	15+			-			-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
TB_ART (N)	<15			-			-
	15+			-			-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
TB_PREV (N)	<15			-			-
	15+			19,701			19,701
	Total	-	-	19,701	-	-	19,701
TX_TB (N)	<15			-			-
	15+			28,674			28,674
	Total	-	-	28,674	-	-	28,674
GEND_GBV	Total			-			-

* Totals may be greater than the sum of categories due to activities outside of the SNU prioritization areas outlined above

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Budgetary Requirements

Ukraine has programmed FY 2019 funding in support of required earmarks as follows:

Earmarks	FY 2019 COP19 Funding Level*
Care & Treatment	6,434,815
HKID Requirement	130,000
Preventing and Responding to Gender-based Violence	-
Water	-

* Does not include central funds

Partner Management and Stakeholder Engagement

Agreements made during COP discussions, including those regarding geographic focus, targets, budgets, SIMS, use of pipeline, partner implementation and partner management will be monitored and evaluated on a regular basis via both ad hoc check-ins and discussions as well as the joint HQ and country team POART discussions. It is expected that teams closely monitor partner performance and engage with each implementing partner on a regular basis to ensure achievement of targets, outcomes and impact in a manner consistent with the this memo, approved SDS, and budgets and targets as finalized in PEPFAR systems. Any partner found not to be on track to achieve 80% of its approved targets or outcomes by the end of the second quarter must be placed on an improvement plan with clear benchmarks to measure improvement. The country team should notify the S/GAC Chair and PPM immediately of the improvement plan.

Continued engagement with all stakeholders, including civil society and community members, multilateral partners and bilateral partners, is to continue throughout COP implementation. Core to this critical engagement is the sharing of and discussion surrounding quarterly results and achievement. This continued engagement will ensure all parties' understanding of Ukraine's progress and help identify any strategic changes to be made in order to more efficiently and effectively reach epidemic control.